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SUBJECT	Historical Review of Medical Research/ Present Medical Personnel at the Hungarian University at Targu-Mures

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The historical accomplishments of medical research in Rumania, [redacted] can be associated with the names of a handful of prominent individuals. [redacted] there was any prevailing trend or obvious emphasis on any special field of research, although there may have been pet topics in the individual universities or departments similar to the overwhelming interest in histamine among the research workers at the Hungarian University of Szeged. Medical training in the basic sciences appears to have been very rigorous indeed - for example the students who had studied at the University of Cluj prior to 1940 unanimously complained that they had to memorize the formidable two-volume anatomy text of Testut-Latarjet. In spite of because of this didactic fanaticism, the average Rumanian student was somewhat poorer than his Hungarian counterpart. It should be pointed out that in Rumania scientific orientation was predominantly towards France, whereas Hungary turned to Germany. [redacted] Rumanian scientific research compared rather unfavorably with that of Hungary, let alone with research carried on in the US and the UK.
2. So far as Bulgaria is concerned, there must have been severe quantitative and/or qualitative shortcomings of medical educational facilities in that country, because Hungarian universities, as well as the Rumanian university at Cluj prior to 1940, were permanently swamped with Bulgarian students, who had a hard time trying to overcome the language difficulties and generally were regarded as an egregious bunch of bums.
3. [redacted] a few of the once prominent medical men of Rumania, [redacted] doesn't exceed that of most US physicians or scientists who have a good background in medical history.

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Dr Victor Babes was a prominent bacteriologist. As a young man he had been an assistant at the Institute of General Pathology of the university in Budapest, and, [] he had also done work at the Institut Pasteur in Paris. He is dead. [] his name actually doesn't mean very much beyond the fact that the so-called metachromatic granules of the diphtheria bacterium were referred to as granules of Ernst-Babes in our textbooks. Dr CH Parhon was a pioneer in endocrinology. In 1909 he, simultaneously with other groups of workers in Germany, pointed out that the parathyroid has a profound effect on calcium metabolism, and that the signs and symptoms of parathyroid deficiency are due to low serum calcium levels rather than to a failure of detoxification of guanidine-derivatives, as had been believed before. [] he worked in Bucharest and [] Dr Marinesco /fnu/ was a generally acclaimed authority in the field of neurology. []

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[] Dr Popa /fnu/ was professor of anatomy at Jassy. In the early 1930's, while working with Fielding in London, he described the vessels which link the pituitary gland to the brain, and which have become very important in contemporary thinking about neuro-endocrine integration, being the only connection between the nervous system and the anterior pituitary, the master gland of the endocrines. Alas, he was mistaken in describing the blood flow in these vessels as being directed towards the brain rather than away from it. [] that the latter is the case. These four men, or at least some of their accomplishments, have gained international acceptance. They are all either dead or at least have reached retirement age.

4. [] there was no international authority among the men who were on the medical faculty of Cluj prior to 1940. The most revered personality seems to have been the internist, Dr Emil Hatieganu, who must now be at least 70. Dr Titu Vasiliu was professor of pathology, and either he or the professor of anatomy was also director of the opera. Hatieganu also had a brother, Julius, who was a well-liked internist.

5. The entire Rumanian faculty of Cluj surrendered the premises to the Hungarians in 1940 and was moved to new temporary headquarters in Nagyszeben, whence they returned in 1945. At that time only two of the Hungarian professors, Drs Imre Haynal and Dezso Miskolczy, were present in Cluj, the super-patriotic remainder of the faculty having fled with the Germans. Owing to their efforts the medical school of the Hungarian university was saved, but had to be moved to Targu-Mures, where it still ekes out a precarious existence, greatly hampered by lack of many elementary facilities for teaching, research and patient care.

6. Dr Miskolczy, who was professor of psychiatry at Szeged prior to 1940, holds the same chair at Targu-Mures. He was primarily a neuro-pathologist, one of the many disciples of the late Professor Karl Schaffer in Budapest, but then switched to clinical psychiatry. [] in 1947, he was playing his favorite instrument, the guitar. As a younger man he had spent some time in Madrid with the great S Ramon y Cajal, whose books he translated into German.

7. Several other persons who taught at Cluj [] returned to Targu-Mures or were promoted to professorship. [] excellent pathologist, Dr Laszlo Haranghy, who had been pathologist-in-chief at Baja, Hungary, prior to being appointed to the chair in Cluj, was at Targu-Mures in 1950. He may have gone to Hungary later, since he became persona grata with the Communists, owing to a nauseating display of subservience. He had done some work on muscle poisons while in Helgoland, Germany, and [] wrote a monograph about Hodgkin's disease. He was a prisoner of war on the Island of Malta during World War I. [] Dr Julius Putnoky, originally a pathologist and then professor of general pathology (ie, bacteriology, etc and pathological physiology) at Cluj, is also at Targu-Mures. []

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what his research interest is. Drs George Ludany (physiologist, known for his contributions to the problems of gastro-intestinal hormones), and Stephen Krompecher (histologist, bone development studies) are other professors who returned to Targu-Mures and taught there for a while, but then moved to Hungary (Budapest and Debrecen, respectively), as did the clinicians, Dr Stephen Lang (internal medicine) and Dr Dezső Klinkó (surgery). Dr Arpad Gyergyay, a professor of otolaryngology, was one of the few local people who were awarded professorships at Cluj in 1940. He was less known for his scientific or clinical prowess than for his stupendous and legendary niggardliness, and after the German debacle swiftly "faded away". His son, Ferenc, is a pathologist at Targu-Mures and I saw a paper by him in a Swiss journal in 1950 or 1951.

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8. Here follows a list of the other people [redacted] at Targu-Mures, or who at least were there [redacted] (in 1950 or 1951): Dr Tibor Andrásfeszky, youthful, talented and politically thoroughly indoctrinated neurosurgeon; Dr Paul Dóczy, professor of internal medicine, formerly one of Haynal's boys at Budapest and Cluj; Dr Joseph Szentpétery, anatomist, a former classmate of mine, and an unpredictable, crazy individualist; Dr Csaba Hadnagy, immunologist; Dr Gregory Fuguljan, ophthalmologist (also a classmate); Dr Francis Veress, dermatologist ([redacted] first assistant at Cluj), son of a deceased professor of dermatology in Hungarian days prior to World War I; Dr Vincent Vitez, laryngologist, formerly physiologist at Pecs. [redacted] these people are able to do any worthwhile research, since they have to travel to Cluj for all library work, and the Rumanian government, though openly less hostile towards minorities than those of yesteryear, still secretly tries to sabotage all efforts on behalf of the Hungarians.

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